



Transmitted Via Electronic Mail

October 19, 2012

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
290 Broadway, 19th Floor, Room W-20
New York, NY 10007-1866
Attn: Alice Yeh

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 12
Combined Sewer Overflow/Stormwater Outfall Investigation
Diamond Alkali Superfund Site (Lower Passaic River Study Area)**

Dear Ms. Yeh:

Submitted herein is the Monthly Progress Report for work performed as part of the Combined Sewer Overflow/Stormwater Outfall Investigation for the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site (Lower Passaic River Study Area). This progress report has been prepared pursuant to Section IX Paragraph 53 of the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Occidental Chemical Corporation, Index No. CERCLA-02-2011-2016.

If you have any questions, please call me at 732.246.5851.

Sincerely,

Tierra Solutions, Inc.

Paul Brzozowski
Remediation Manager
On behalf of Occidental Chemical Corporation
(as successor to Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company)

cc: Carol E. Dinkins, Vinson & Elkins
Willard Potter, de maximis, inc.
Karyllan Dodson Mack, K&L Gates

CSO-SWO_Investigation_Monthly_Report_No_12.docx

10th Floor

Two Tower Center Blvd .East Brunswick, New Jersey 08816

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MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT NO. 12
COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW/STORMWATER OUTFALL INVESTIGATION
DIAMOND ALKALI SUPERFUND SITE (LOWER PASSAIC RIVER STUDY AREA)
WORK PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2012

Actions Taken Towards Achieving Compliance with the Order

- ☐ Tierra coordinated with Groundwater Treatment and Technology (GWTT) to complete modifications to the sample collection system and trailer.
- ☐ Tierra coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC) to obtain permission to return effluent to the sample collection manhole.
- ☐ Tierra received the results of the third performance evaluation sample for organochlorine pesticide analysis from Vista Analytical (September 24, 2012).
- ☐ Tierra held a pre-mobilization teleconference with the USEPA and PVSC on September 27, 2012 to discuss Phase I communication and protocol.

USEPA and Other Information/Correspondence Received

- ☐ None during this reporting period.

Validated Sampling or Testing Results Received or Generated During the Course of Implementing the Work

- ☐ None during this reporting period.

Future Plans, Actions and Data Scheduled for October and November 2012

- ☐ Collect pre-program blanks (estimate mid October 2012).
- ☐ Complete memorandum documenting the sample collection system and trailer field demonstration and laboratory low solids mass sample separation demonstration at Test America in Burlington, VT (estimate mid October 2012).
- ☐ Complete memorandum documenting the field reconnaissance activities (estimate mid October 2012).
- ☐ Submit a laboratory audit report of Brooks Rand Labs of Seattle, WA to USEPA (estimate mid October 2012).
- ☐ Obtain permission from PVSC to return effluent to the sample collection manhole (estimate late October).
- ☐ Complete the verification of the general filtration 0.5 micrometer wound filter cartridge (part No. G0.5A4A) used in the secondary separation procedure for low solids mass. Verification of this part number will be documented in the memorandum describing the low solids mass sample separation demonstration (estimate late October 2012).
- ☐ Submit the results of the third performance evaluation sample sent to Vista Analytical for organochlorine pesticide analysis to USEPA (estimate late October 2012).
- ☐ Complete the low solids mass dissolved phase method blank study (estimate late October 2012).
- ☐ Submit the results of the low solids mass dissolved phase method blank study (estimate mid November 2012).
- ☐ Initiate Phase I sampling activities (estimate late November 2012).
- ☐ Submit revisions to SOPs L-19, L-23 and L-26 for organochlorine pesticides and Worksheets #12, 13 and 28 of the Combined Sewer Overflow/Stormwater Outfall Investigation Quality

Assurance Project Plan (CSO/SWO Investigation QAPP) – Lower Passaic River Study Area, Revision 1, May 2011, Addendum Issued June 2012 to document the agreed-upon corrective action (the addition of a second source standard) (late October 2012).

Actual or Potential Violations, Other Problems Encountered and Corrective Actions

- ☐ None during this reporting period.

Delays Encountered or Anticipated and Mitigation Actions

- ☐ None during this reporting period.